

Name: Cyclone Rim North WY-030-26N96W33-2012

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ Yes _____ X _____ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: ___ BLM Rawlins FO 1979 Wilderness Inventory Hard Copy Files _____

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): _ ___ 1979 Cyclone Rim Inventory WY-030-405 _____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): ___ Bureau of Land Management Wyoming Wilderness Review Serial No. 66700 _____

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s): ___ High Desert District/Rawlins Field Office _____

2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

The unit consists of approximately 38,000 acres, of which 36,500 have been recommended for further inventory. The area is generally flat to gently rolling and is largely vegetated with sagebrush and grassland type vegetation. The area is known to have oil and gas potential.

Inventory Source: M:\gis_workareas\Recreation\WSA\LandWilderCharc1979

Area #/Name	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
Cyclone Rim	Yes (38,000 acres)	Yes, but only portion of area	N/A	N/A	N/A

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name: **Cyclone Rim North WY-030-26N96W33-2012** Acreage: **28,518 acres**

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☐ X ☒ No ☐ ☐

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is bound on the northwest by an unnamed Class 3 Light Duty Road maintained by industry. The unit is bound on the north and east by Cyclone Rim Road, a.k.a. BLM Road 3216. The unit is bound on the south by the Plains Pipeline. The unit is bound on the west by BLM Road 3219 a.k.a. Red Creek Rd.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include acreage, land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of the major human uses/activities)

The Cyclone Rim North Unit under consideration is 28,518 acres of BLM public land. The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie, buttes, hills, and drainages created by runoff from Cyclone Rim. Elevation ranges from 7,266 feet on the hilltops above the drainages to 6,700 feet at the bottom of the drainages. The dominant vegetation cover is mountain big sagebrush on the slopes and uplands of the unit and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. The primary land use is livestock grazing. The primary dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t25n	r96w	17	t26n	r96w	25
t25n	r96w	18	t26n	r96w	26
t25n	r97w	13	t26n	r96w	27
t25n	r97w	14	t26n	r96w	28
t25n	r96w	9	t26n	r96w	29
t25n	r96w	8	t26n	r96w	30
t25n	r96w	7	t26n	r97w	25
t25n	r97w	12	t26n	r95w	22
t25n	r97w	11	t26n	r97w	26
t25n	r97w	10	t26n	r97w	27
t25n	r96w	2	t26n	r97w	28
t25n	r96w	3	t26n	r95w	21
t25n	r96w	4	t26n	r95w	20

t25n	r96w	5	t26n	r95w	19
t25n	r96w	6	t26n	r96w	24
t25n	r97w	1	t26n	r96w	23
t25n	r97w	2	t26n	r96w	22
t25n	r97w	3	t26n	r96w	21
t26n	r95w	31	t26n	r96w	20
t26n	r96w	36	t26n	r95w	16
t26n	r96w	35	t26n	r96w	19
t26n	r96w	34	t26n	r97w	24
t26n	r96w	33	t26n	r96w	16
t26n	r96w	32	t26n	r97w	23
t26n	r96w	31	t26n	r97w	22
t26n	r97w	36	t26n	r96w	15
t26n	r97w	35	t26n	r95w	17
t26n	r97w	34	t26n	r96w	18
t26n	r97w	33	t26n	r96w	14
t26n	r95w	27	t26n	r96w	13
t26n	r95w	28	t26n	r95w	18
t26n	r95w	29	t26n	r97w	13
t26n	r95w	30			

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 61.7 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and 5.66 miles of wilderness inventory roads (i.e., well access roads) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes and wilderness inventory roads are demonstrated in photos 9 and 11. When hiking across the Cyclone Rim North Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes and well access roads. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The area contains 19 oil and gas wells throughout the Cyclone Rim North Unit (see unit map). Evidence of oil and gas development is demonstrated in photos 1, 2, 6-7, and 8. These oil and gas installations within the unit represent permanent improvements and loss of primeval character. When examining the status of the oil and gas wells, eight of these wells are permanently abandoned, one is shut-in, six have expired permits, one has pumping rods, and three are flowing. Despite the variation in status, these wells remain as existing installations that, cumulatively, detract from the naturalness and are substantially noticeable to the casual observer while hiking through the unit. All wells, which are not abandoned, are managed as active wells and receive commercial vehicle traffic for periodic maintenance. This traffic would interrupt the casual observer's experience of wilderness character due to road dust plumes and the contrast between the white coloration of these vehicles moving across the tan, brown, and olive

landscape. Well pads do not receive final reclamation approval until they have been plugged and abandoned. Visual contrasts created by surface disturbances, including well pad turn-arounds, soil exposure around the facilities, and a rectangular area of wheat grass, remain until final reclamation is established.

The Cyclone Rim North Unit also contains a substantially noticeable, man-made, reservoir which covers .44 surface acres. This reservoir is a borrow pit which is impounded on all sides with rectangular pit walls (see Section 24, T 26 N, R 97 W; see examples in Photos 3-5). When the casual observer encounters the earthen impoundment, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to this obvious man-made modification constructed with mechanized equipment.

The casual observer is often attracted to bodies of water while hiking. Water adds interest and diversity to the landscape. When arriving at the reservoir, the casual observer would notice that it is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, muddy borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this “reservoir” is designed for cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The casual observer would encounter a similar experience when seeking to replenish water supplies from other wells and reservoirs within this unit. The numerous range improvements, including five water wells (equipped with solar panels and tanks), .46 miles of fence (see Photo 12), and the reservoir/borrow pit, were developed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of numerous grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous oil and gas wells, primitive routes, wilderness inventory roads, and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Cyclone Rim North Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: Cyclone Rim North WY-030-26N96W33-2012

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

_____ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

___X___ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

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Team members:

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